

## The American Red Cross

The Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men

311 Fourth Avenue      New York City

### Introduction in Congress of Measure Providing for the Vocational Rehabilitation of War Cripples

THERE was introduced in the United States Senate on April 8, 1918, by Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, a measure providing for the vocational rehabilitation of disabled soldiers and sailors. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. The move will be welcomed by those who have been anxious to see set under way provision for the re-education of war cripples.

The bill includes in its scope only men disabled in military or naval service—not industrial cripples, as was contemplated in an earlier draft of a measure of similar purpose. Responsibility for the provision of vocational rehabilitation is delegated to the Federal Board for Vocational Education.

The text of the bill (S. 4284, 65th Congress, 2d Session) reads as follows:

A Bill to provide for vocational rehabilitation and return to civil employment of disabled persons discharged from the military or naval forces of the United States, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That this Act shall be known as the vocational rehabilitation Act.

*Section 2.* That every person who is disabled under circumstances entitling him, after discharge from the military or naval forces of the United States, to compensation under Article III of the Act entitled 'An Act to authorize the establishment of a Bureau of War Risk Insurance in the Treasury Department', approved September second, nineteen hundred and fourteen, as amended, and who, in the opinion of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, is unable to resume the former occupation or to enter upon some other suitable or gainful occupation or having resumed or entered upon such occupation is unable to continue the same successfully and may be vocationally rehabilitated, shall be ordered by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance to follow such course of vocational rehabilitation as the Federal Board for Vocational Education shall prescribe and provide, or when deemed advisable by said board shall be retained in the military or naval forces of the United States and be detailed to the control and direction of said board until the course of training prescribed has been satisfactorily completed.

*Section 7.* That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, to be used by the Federal Board for Vocational Education for erecting, renting, and remodeling buildings and quarters, repairing, maintaining, and equipping same, and for equipment and other facilities necessary for proper instruction of disabled persons, \$250,000; for the preparation of instructors and salaries of instructors, supervisors, and other experts, including necessary traveling expenses, \$545,000; for traveling expenses of disabled persons in connection with training and for lodging, subsistence, and other necessary expenses in special cases of persons following prescribed courses, \$250,000; for tuition for persons pursuing courses in existing institutions, public or private, \$545,000; for the placement and supervision after placement of vocationally rehabilitated persons \$45,000; for studies, investigations, reports, and preparation of special courses of instruction, \$55,000; for miscellaneous contingencies, including special mechanical appliances necessary in special cases for disabled men, \$110,000; for the administrative expenses of said board incident to performing the duties imposed by this Act including salaries of such assistants, experts, clerks, and other employees in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, as the board may deem necessary, actual traveling and other necessary expenses incurred by the members of the board and by its employees under its orders, including attendance at meetings of educational associations and other organizations, rent and equipment of offices in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, purchase of books of reference, law books, and periodicals, stationery, typewriters and exchange thereof, miscellaneous supplies, postage on foreign mail, printing and binding to be done at the Government Printing Office, and all other necessary expenses, \$200,000: *Provided*, That the said board shall file with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate on July first and every three months thereafter, for the information of the Congress, an itemized account of all expenditures made under this Act.

*Section 8.* That section three hundred and four of the Act entitled 'An Act to authorize the establishment of a Bureau of War Risk Insurance in the Treasury Department', approved September second, nineteen hundred and fourteen, as amended, is hereby repealed.